

11 Formerly-Closed DCPS Buildings Reopened as DCPS Schools Since 2013

39 former DCPS buildings are home to public charter schools; one of the 76 formerly-closed DCPS buildings remains vacant.

This Edsight describes the status of the 76 formerly-closed DCPS schools that are either being used for educational purposes, are housing other District agencies, are leased to non profit organizations, or are under development in partnership with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development (DMPED). Detailed information about each building can be found in the Citywide Landscape of Formerly Closed DCPS Facilities. Any former school closed before 2008 and not managed by the city or other educational entity is excluded from this analysis. Buildings reopened as DCPS schools since 2013 are included.

Between 2008 and 2015, DCPS closed 40 school facilities due to low enrollment. Today that trend has reversed with DCPS having reopened or modernizing to reopen 11 formerly-closed DCPS buildings since 2013.

Those reopened buildings now house DCPS's Excel Academy; Brookland MS; MacFarland MS; River Terrace Education Campus; Ron Brown HS; Stevens Early Learning Center; Military Road Early Learning Center; and the newly modernized Banneker HS on the former Shaw site now

open for SY2021-22. In addition, capital funding has been dedicated to modernize and reopen the future home of Bard HS in the former Malcolm X building, and open early learning schools in the Old Miner and Old Randle Highlands buildings.

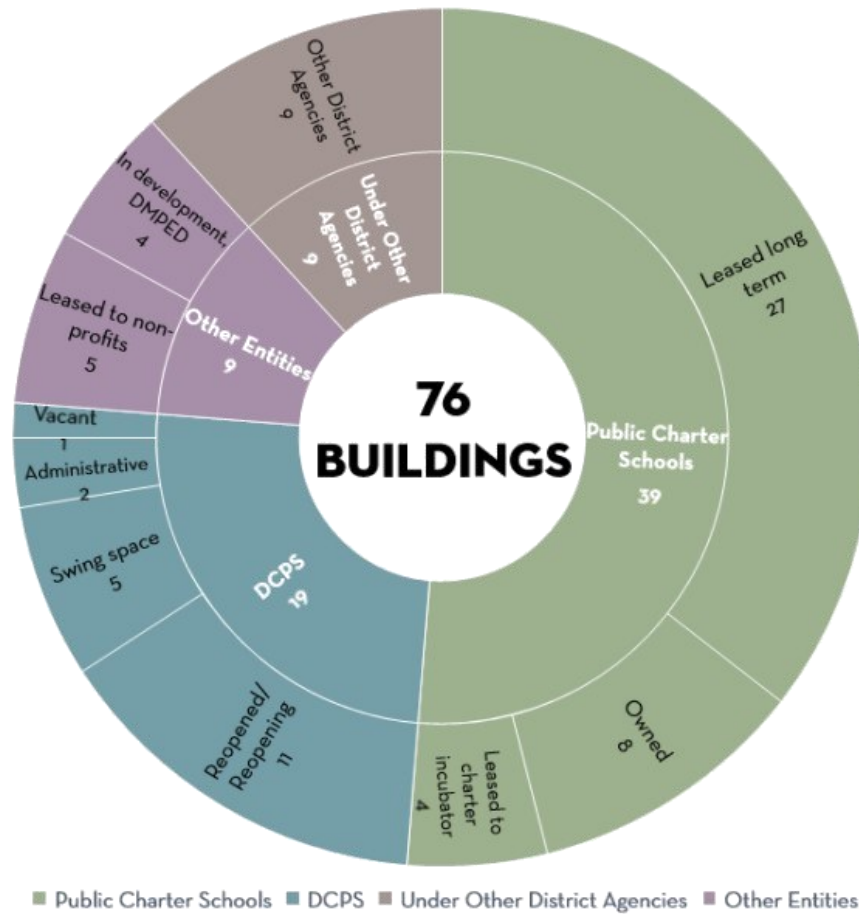
DCPS continues to use another five of the formerly-closed schools for temporary locations during periods of building renovation (referred to as “swing spaces”). When DCPS schools receive capital funding for renovations (or “modernizations”), the students and staff of the school will temporarily relocate to swing spaces designated to accommodate them.

As of September 2021, one DCPS school building is vacant, the Winston building, compared to three vacant buildings in 2019.

More than half of the former DCPS buildings – 39 in total – continue to be home to public charter schools. Most recently, this includes DC Prep having a long-term for the Wilkinson building starting in 2022. This translates to 33 out of 69 local education agencies or LEAs operating a school in

continued

Status of Previously Closed DCPS Buildings in Educational Use or Government Owned



a former DCPS building, as some public charter LEAs have access to multiple buildings.

Per DC Official Code 38-1802.09, charter schools receive a “right of first offer” (RFO) to buildings deemed as excess before they are disposed through any other means. In 2020 the city awarded the Ferebee-Hope building to KIPP DC via an RFO process.

Four of the buildings are under development in partnership with DMPED to meet housing and community needs. These include Crummell, Fletcher-Johnson, Grimke, and Langston. More

information about those projects can be found on [DMPED’s project site](#).

Finally, as part of the nine buildings being used by other District agencies, the Spingarn building per the Mayor’s most recent capital budget will house the Department of Employment Services’ DC Infrastructure Academy.

Appendix: [Citywide Landscape of Formerly Closed DCPS Facilities](#)

Feedback? Email Edsight.DME@dc.gov

Other District Agencies include: DC Office on Aging, Department of Employment Services, Department of General Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Parks & Recreations, Metropolitan Police Department, and University of the District of Columbia.